

SB2272

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF NURSING**

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2010

Wednesday, February 3, 2010
3:00 p.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 2272, RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR NURSES.**

TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kathy Yokouchi and I am the Executive Officer of the Board of Nursing ("Board"). I thank you for the opportunity to present testimony in strong opposition to Senate Bill No. 2272.

This bill requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

The Board is not in support of Senate Bill No 2272 for the following reasons:

- Nursing careers take widely divergent paths, varying by professional role, setting, clients, disease conditions and therapeutic modalities as well as level of health care delivery;
- There is the inherent evolution of practice from the new graduate-entry-generalist level to the experienced-focused practice level of competence;
- The need and the costs involved in implementing an effective mandatory continuing education program for twenty-four thousand nurses licensed in the State need to be assessed;
- Increased fees to the nurses and possible increased costs to consumers as a result of the cost of the continuing education requirements need to

be assessed to determine whether the benefits to the nurses, the employers, and the public outweigh the costs;

- Continuing education requirements must be administratively feasible, cost-effective, and equitably applied and enforced;
- An adequate phase-in period proposed to allow educational institutions, employers, and professionals sufficient time to meet the mandatory continuing education requirements needs to be determined; and
- The National Council of State Boards of Nursing explored the characteristics of registered and licensed practical/vocational nursing from entry through five years of practice. It will report its findings and solution to the problem in 2011.

For the reasons stated above, the Board opposes this bill moving forward as is and that minimally a study be done first to:

- Evaluate whether there is a demonstrated need for mandatory continuing education and documented evidence that problems related to unacceptable professional performance exist because of actual performance deficiencies, rather than inadequacies in supervision, facilities, financial resources, or equipment;
- Identify the resources required to ensure proper delivery, monitoring, and compliance of the program (funds for additional program operation including qualified staff, space, materials, and equipment. Include the cost impact on the professional, the employer, and the educational institution must also be identified and weighed);

- Identify the availability of the needed resources to establish a continuing education program for 24,000 nurses licensed in Hawaii;
- Perform a comprehensive examination of the characteristics of post-entry nursing practice and how the characteristics change over time;
- Identify the chronologic evolution of nursing practice;
- Evaluate how factors specific to the individual nurse (e.g., age, gender, type of basic nursing educational program, propensity for self-study, specialty area, work setting, etc.) influence the evolution of practice;
- Identify the determinants of safe post-entry practice. Determine what are the characteristics of safe versus unsafe practice;
- Identify a professional program suitable for analyzing the training and educational needs of nurses and for evaluating competence on the basis of current practice criteria; and
- Identify what the fiscal impact will be on the State, the public, the nurse, the employer, and the educational system of establishing and maintaining a mandatory continuing education system.

Further, if such a study is supported by the Committee then the Board recommends that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing establish a joint advisory committee of stakeholders to study this important issue. The Board believes composition of the advisory committee could include a representative from the Board of Nursing, each of the Hawaii schools of nursing, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, and the following associations:

- Hawaii Association of Professional Nurses
- Hawaii Nurses Association

- Philippine Nurses Association
- Hawaii Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- Hawaii Association of Nurse Executives
- Healthcare Association of Hawaii
- Hawaii Long Term Care Association
- Department of Health
- Department of Human Services
- Department of Commerce & Consumer Affairs
- Office of the Legislative Auditor

For these reasons, the Board of Nursing opposes Senate Bill No. 2272 and strongly believes that prior to the implementation of mandatory continuing education for nurses, an assessment be done whether such a program is necessary and feasible.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Health
February 3, 2010, 3:00 p.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and

Mary G. Boland, DrPH, RN, FAAN
Dean and Professor

School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 2272 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and members of the Senate Committee on Health, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 2272 to require continuing education credits for registered nurse (RN) licensure renewal.

At this time, continuing education credits are not required for RN licensure renewal in the State of Hawai'i. This bill proposes a 15 hour requirement of continuing education for each 2-year licensure period renewal.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa promotes life long learning, especially in the field of healthcare, where new research, technologies, and evidence based practice can increase the quality of care provided to the community. We support this bill with the shared goal to promote patient safety and support the valuable role nurses contribute in our health care system.

There is a national call for a more highly educated nursing workforce as recognized by the Josiah Macy Foundation, the Carnegie Foundation, and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), the national voice for America's baccalaureate- and higher-degree nursing education programs. In a recent joint publication on lifelong learning by the AACN and Association of American Medical Colleges, a shared vision is articulated for a "continuum of health professional education from admission into a health professional program to retirement that values, exemplifies, and assesses lifelong skills ..." ¹. The report encourages an understanding of and support for change and collaboration among stakeholders to achieve this vision noting four key areas for analysis and recommendation: continuing education methods; interprofessional education; lifelong learning; and workplace learning.

¹ AAMC/AACN. 2009. Lifelong Learning in Medicine and Nursing.
<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/Education/pdf/MacyReport.pdf>.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and the School of Nursing and Dental Hygiene support a collaborative approach to addressing the needs of Hawai'i and is willing to work with the legislature, Hawai'i State Board of Nursing, and community to assist with this measure including further discussion on the matter and offering educational opportunities to support Hawai'i's RNs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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Executive Director
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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii
Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Health

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
February 3, 2010

S.B. 2272 - RELATING TO
CONTINUING EDUCATION
FOR NURSES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, opposes S.B. 2272 - Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses.

Although we understand the intent of the bill, requiring all registered professional nurses to acquire fifteen (15) continuing education units each two-year period to enable them to renew their licenses will pose a hardship, especially for our nurses employed on the neighbor islands. The majority of our nurses employed in the public sector provide direct patient care. They work various rotating shifts and schedules, making it difficult for many of them to attend continuing education classes during the day. Also, there are very few classes offered on the neighbor islands, which would necessitate travel to Oahu with additional travel costs.

If the language in the bill would require the employer to provide the continuing education classes at their respective facilities at no cost to the nurses, that would alleviate the availability and cost issues. Additionally, requiring continuing education units does not provide any assurances of the competency of the nurse.

For the reasons stated above, we oppose S.B. 2272 as currently written. Thank you for the opportunity to submit our comments.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura
Deputy Executive Director



THE QUEEN'S MEDICAL CENTER

1301 Punchbowl Street • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813 • Phone (808) 538-9011 • Fax: (808) 547-4646

Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

February 3, 2010 – 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

In Strong Support of SB 2272, Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cindy Kamikawa, the Chief Nurse Executive for The Queen's Medical Center. I am testifying in strong support of SB 2272, which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

Lifelong learning is essential for nurses to maintain and increase competence in nursing practice. The increasingly complex healthcare needs of Hawaii's culturally diverse and aging population underscores the need for nurses to regularly update their knowledge of physical, social, biological and behavioral sciences related to nursing practice.

Hawaii is one of only 18 states that do not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their license. Recognizing the importance of continuing education to professional competence and delivery of high quality patient care, many states require healthcare professionals such as physicians, nurses, pharmacists and social workers to obtain continuing education credits as a condition of license renewal. A wide variety of methods for obtaining CE credits are available to nurses through seminars, classes, conferences and online activities.

Patient safety is dependent on well prepared and educated nurses. Passage of this bill will ensure that all nurses regularly participate in continuing education to expand their professional nursing knowledge. Your favorable review of SB 2272 is appreciated.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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HAWAII PACIFIC HEALTH
Kapi'olani • Pali Momi • Straub • Wilcox

808-535-7401
www.hawaiipacifichealth.org

Wednesday, February 3 2010 – 3:00pm
Conference Room 016

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, MD Vice Chair

From: Art Gladstone, RN MBA
Chief Nurse Executive – Hawai'i Pacific Health
Chief Operating Office – Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2272 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

My name is Art Gladstone, Chief Nurse Executive at Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH) and Chief Operating Officer at Straub Clinic & Hospital. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a nonprofit health care system and the state's largest health care provider, committed to providing the highest quality medical care and service to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Region through its four affiliated hospitals, 44 outpatient clinics and more than 2,200 physicians and clinicians. The network is anchored by its four nonprofit hospitals: Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital and Wilcox Memorial Hospital. Collectively, they lead the state in the areas of women's health, pediatric care, cardiovascular services, bone and joint services and cancer care. Hawai'i Pacific Health ranks among the top 3.8 percent of hospitals nationwide in electronic medical record adoption, with system-wide implementation that allows its hospitals to offer integrated, coordinated care throughout the state. Learn more at: <http://www.hawaiipacifichealth.org>

I am writing in strong support of SB 2272 which requires nurses licensed in the State of Hawaii to complete 15 hours of continuing education during each two year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

It is the role of healthcare employers, regulatory boards, legislators, accrediting and certifying bodies, professional organizations and nursing professionals to protect the health and safety of the public. Patient safety and quality care are at the forefront of today's healthcare environment. Healthcare remains a rapidly changing environment in which new technology, procedures and research are developed at an unprecedented pace. In this dynamic and evolving environment, it is essential that we ensure that those who are providing clinical care remain up to date with current information. SB 2272 will assist Registered Nurses in maintaining and expanding their knowledge base to remain current and competent in their field not only upon initial licensure but also throughout their nursing career on an ongoing basis through licensure renewal.

Continuing education is one of several methods that can assist Nurses to maintain clinical competency. Research suggests that although the majority of Nurses support and agree that continuing education is necessary to maintain clinical competency, actual voluntary participation in continuing education is not as highly supported. A State requirement for continuing education will assist to overcome this barrier.



Physicians, Physical Therapists, Dentists, Pharmacists, Social Workers, and other Allied Health professionals are among professional groups who require ongoing continuing education for licensure renewal. Hawaii's physicians have long required continuing education participation. Hawaii is among only 18 states in the nation that does not currently require continuing education for nurses for professional licensure renewal.

In today's diverse educational environment, the obtainment of 15 hours of continuing education can be obtained with relative ease. Many healthcare employers offer continuing education reimbursement programs. Continuing education hours can be obtained at minimal or no cost via an online or self study venue. Most nursing courses, classes, in-services, seminars and conferences offer continuing education at minimal or no charge to the participants. A 15 hour continuing education requirement is a minimal expectation. There are 20 States that require greater than 15 hours of continuing education per licensure renewal cycle.

Nurses who obtain national certifications in their area of specialty have been shown to have improved patient care outcomes. In order to maintain a national certification, the nurse must demonstrate completion of continuing nursing education. The continuing education requirement of SB 2272 could be applied toward national certification maintenance and vice versa, both of which will increase the knowledge base of the nurse.

In summary, I strongly support SB 2272 and the requirement of continuing education hours for nursing licensure renewal. This bill will assist nurses in maintaining long term clinical competence which ultimately will lead to improved safety and quality of care for the people of Hawaii. The public has a right to expect competence from their healthcare providers and continuing education requirements are a key component of this. With the support of employers, legislators, and regulatory bodies a multifaceted approach to maintaining clinical competence can be achieved. Thank you for your consideration of SB 2272 and for this opportunity to submit testimony in support of it.

1319 Punahou Street
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808-983-6000
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Wednesday, February 2 2010 – 3:00pm
Conference Room 016

The House Committee on Health

To: Representative Ryan H. Yamane, Chair
Representative Scott Y. Nishimoto, Vice Chair

From: Joan Burritt, RN
Vice President/Chief Nurse Executive
Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support SB 2272 Relating to Continuing Education
For Nurses**

My name is Dr. Joan Burritt, RN, Vice President/Chief Nurse Executive at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children. Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children is well recognized as Hawai'i's leader in the care of women, infants and children. With 207 beds and 90 bassinets, the nonprofit hospital is Hawai'i's only maternity, newborn and pediatric specialty hospital. It is also a tertiary care, medical teaching and research facility. Specialty services for patients throughout Hawai'i and the Pacific Region include intensive care for infants and children, 24-hour emergency pediatric care, air transport, maternal fetal medicine, and high-risk perinatal care. More than 1,300 employees and 612 physicians provide specialty care at Kapi'olani Medical Center. The hospital is home to Kapi'olani Women's Center, Kapi'olani Breast Center and Kapi'olani Women's Cancer Center - the state's only dedicated breast health and gynecological cancer centers. Kapi'olani offers numerous community programs and services, such as the Kapi'olani Child Protection Center and Sex Abuse Treatment Center. Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health, the states largest health care provider. Learn more at: www.kapiolani.org.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2272 which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license renewal.

Nurses must continuously learn and acquire new skills to maintain competence in their profession. Many healthcare organizations have continuing education established within their practice, yet many nurses work independently of these organizations and therefore have no obligation to complete requirements for continuing education.

Hawai'i lags behind most other states which require continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. As of 2009, 32 of the 50 states require nurses to obtain some type of continuing education units to renew their license. Physicians have been required to obtain 40 continuing medical education (CME) every two years for many years, and numerous states also require other healthcare professionals – such as pharmacists and social workers – to obtain continuing education credits to renew their licenses. However, Hawai'i is among only 18 states that does not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their licenses.

Requiring CE can be done with minimal cost to the licensing body and at minimal financial burden to an individual nurse. The oversight of these requirements can be managed efficiently through the use of random audits, as done with physicians CE credits. For example, instead of sending in proof of CME to a central department, Physicians are randomly audited.

This method has proven to be effective and less labor intensive than traditional methods of CE oversight. Random audits can be applied to manage CE compliance and in fact the preferred method by many national organizations such as the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

For individuals nurses, the cost to maintain education credits are manageable given the alternative CE methods that is widely available. There are now numerous avenues for a nurse to obtain continuing education – some of which are free. Examples include seminars and conference that offer continuing education – which are the costliest of the options to professional journals and online sources. Therefore, the 15 continuing hours every two years can be done at little cost given the relatively low number of continuing education credits proposed in this bill to maintain a nursing license.

For nurses seeking national certification, the same educational credits could also be applied toward national certification. For example, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) requires 100 continuing credits every three years, which the 15 hour requirement requested in SB 2272, could also be applied to AACN requirements.

Please consider passing SB 2272 from this committee. Patient safety is dependent on well educated nurses and continuing education is an avenue of assuring all nurses obtain continuing education independent of their practice area. Requiring education is a small effort to comply with when delivering safe and quality patient care is at stake.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Wednesday – February 3, 2010 - 3:00pm
Conference Room 016

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator David Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D. Vice Chair

From: Brigitte McKale, RN
Chief Nurse Executive
Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi

Re: **Testimony in Strong Support SB 2272 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses**

My name is Brigitte McKale, Chief Nurse Executive for Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi. The Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi is an affiliate of Hawaii Pacific Health (HPH), which is the four-hospital system of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital, and Wilcox Hospital/Kauai Medical Clinic.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2272 which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

As nursing professionals we have an ethical obligation to protect the safety of patients who are often vulnerable and dependent on the care we provide. This ethical obligation necessitates nurses to update their knowledge with evidenced based care and keeping up with the latest developments in the healthcare field. Not updating and acquiring new skills and knowledge will ultimately leave Hawai'i's nursing professionals ill prepared to provide the best care possible for our patients.

Just like with any other professions (realtors, lawyers, physicians), nurses must continuously learn and acquire new skills to maintain competence in their profession. Many healthcare organizations have continuing education established within their practice, yet many nurses work independently of these organizations and therefore have no obligation to complete requirements for continuing education.

Hawai'i lags behind most other states which require continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. As of 2009, 32 of the 50 states require nurses to obtain some type of continuing education units to renew their license. Physicians have been required to obtain 40 continuing medical education (CME) every two years for many years, and numerous states also require other healthcare professionals – such as pharmacists and social workers - to obtain continuing education credits to renew their licenses. However, Hawai'i is among only 18 states that does not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their license.

Requiring CE can be done with minimal cost to the licensing body and at minimal financial burden to an individual nurse. The oversight of these requirements can be managed efficiently through the use of random audits, as done with physician CE credits. For example, instead of sending in proof of CME to a central department, physicians are randomly audited. This method has proven to be effective and less labor intensive than traditional methods of CE oversight. Random audits can be applied to manage CE compliance and in fact is the preferred method by many national organizations such as the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

For individuals nurses, the cost to maintain education credits are manageable given the alternative CE methods that is widely available. There are now numerous avenues for a nurse to obtain continuing education - some of which are free. Examples include seminars and conferences that offer continuing education - which are the costliest of the options to professional journals and online sources. Therefore, the 15 continuing hours every two years can be done at little cost and given the relatively low number of continuing education credits proposed in this bill to maintain a nursing license.

For nurses seeking national certification, the same educational credits could also be applied toward national certification. For example, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) requires 100 continuing credit every three years, which the 15 hour requirement requested in SB 2272 could also be applied to AACN requirements.

Please consider passing SB 2272 from this committee. Patient safety is dependent on well educated nurses and continuing education is an avenue of assuring all nurses obtain continuing education independent of their practice area. Requiring education is a small effort to comply with when delivering safe and quality patient care is at stake.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Testimony of
Phyllis Dendle
Director of Government Relations

Before:
Senate Committee on Health
The Honorable David Y. Ige, Chair
The Honorable Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

February 3, 2010
3:00 pm
Conference Room 016

SB 2272 RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

Chair Ige and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB2272 which requires nurses to have 15 hours of continuing education in order to renew their license.

Kaiser Permanente Hawaii supports the intent but recommends an amendment.

We share the legislature's interest in assuring the highest level of competency for health care professionals who practice in Hawaii.

Nurses renew their licenses every June 30 in odd numbered years. The next renewal date will be June 30, 2011. The bill would require that the nurses renewing at that time have their continuing education completed by December 31, 2011. If this bill becomes law in July 2010 this would allow less than the intended two years for nurses to get the required continuing education. It may also require time to set up the process of tracking these credits. In addition it will require a complete review of education and licensing out of the usual renewal cycle. **With that in mind we suggest the date to begin this requirement be no sooner than the renewal date of June 30, 2013.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Wednesday, February 3 2010 – 3:00pm
Conference Room 016

The Senate Committee on Health

To: Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

From: Patricia Boeckmann
Chief Nurse Executive & VP of Operations
Straub Clinic & Hospital

Re: Testimony in Strong Support SB 2272 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

My name is Patricia Boeckmann, Chief Nurse Executive and VP of Hospital Operations for Straub Clinic & Hospital. Straub Clinic & Hospital is an affiliate of Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH), which is the four-hospital system of Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women & Children, Kapi'olani Medical Center at Pali Momi, Straub Clinic & Hospital, and Wilcox Hospital/Kaua'i Medical Clinic.

I am writing in strong support of SB 2272 which requires nurses licensed in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education (CE) during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

Historically, people in the community have assumed that the care being providing in hospitals has been "safe" and "appropriate", and in general it is. The ability to deliver safe and appropriate care is compromised by the proliferation of technology and the ability of the healthcare provider to maintain a reasonable level of proficiency and knowledge of those new advances. If we focus only on a single technology, pharmaceutical advances, what a nurse learned as little as five years ago may no longer be relevant.

It is expected that by 2012, nurses in the 50s will become the largest segment of the nursing workforce, accounting for almost one quarter of the RN population in the hospital setting. For that 25% of nurses, it may have been 25 years or more since they earned their certificate, diploma, or degree. Consider that at least 85 new drugs have been introduced each year of the last 25 years. That's over 2000 new drugs in the past 25 years, each with their own side effects, but also with the ability to interact with any other medication taken by a patient. What expectation should we as healthcare consumers have, that our nurses have kept up with the advances in pharmacy? If we include in that equation, the effect of advances in other technologies and the many accepted best practices that are recommended based on evidence and research, is it not reasonable that nurses, as professionals, be required to participate in ensuring their own level of competence and education?

If hospitals were the only location where nurses practice, it might be easy to suggest that hospitals bear the burden of ensuring ongoing education of nurses. Nurses, however, can practice in clinics, in private physician's offices, in free-standing, for-profit ambulatory settings, in long term care facilities, as per diem practitioners in multiple hospitals or settings in a given week, and may be employed through an agency as a temporary nurse in any or all of the settings listed.

Hawai'i lags behind most other states which require continuing education requirements as a condition of license renewal. As of 2007, 31 of the 50 states require nurses to obtain some type of continuing education units to renew their license. Physicians have been required to obtain 40 continuing medical

education (CME) every two years for many years, and numerous states also require other healthcare professionals – such as pharmacists and social workers – to obtain continuing education credits to renew their licenses. However, Hawai'i is among only 19 states that does not require continuing education credits in order for nurses to renew their license.

Requiring CE can be done with minimal cost to the licensing body and at minimal financial burden to an individual nurse. The oversight of these requirements can be managed efficiently through the use of random audits, as done with physician CE credits. For example, instead of sending in proof of CME to a central department, physicians are randomly audited. This method has proven to be effective and less labor intensive than traditional methods of CE oversight. Random audits can be applied to manage CE compliance and in fact is the preferred method by many national organizations such as the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN).

For individual nurses, the cost to maintain education credits is manageable given the alternative CE methods that are widely available. There are now numerous avenues for a nurse to obtain continuing education – some of which are free. If you Google “free nursing continuing education”, the result is more than 4,820,000 results. One of the top 3 results offers 30 credits for \$39.00. Clearly, cost for the Individual is not a primary issue.

For nurses seeking national certification, the same educational credits could also be applied toward national certification. For example, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) requires 100 continuing credit every three years, which the 15 hour requirement requested in HB 2205 could also be applied to AACN requirements.

Please consider passing SB 2272 from this committee. Patient safety is dependent on well educated nurses and continuing education is an avenue of assuring all nurses obtain continuing education independent of their practice area. Requiring education is a small effort to comply to when delivering safe and quality patient care is at stake.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Health
Wednesday, February 3, 2010 at 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 2272 RELATING CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR
NURSES**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Jim Tollefson and I am the President and CEO of The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii ("The Chamber"). The Chamber supports Senate Bill 2272 relating continuing education for nurses.

The Chamber is the largest business organization in Hawaii, representing more than 1,100 businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of its members, which employ more than 200,000 individuals, to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

This measure requires nurses licenses in the state to complete 15 hours of continuing education during each two-year license period as a requirement for license renewal.

Quality health care is critical to the people and economy of Hawaii. As one of the largest private industries in Hawaii, the health care industry plays an important role in our economy, particularly through attractive, well-paying jobs and through the purchase of goods and services that contribute to our state's economy. As such, the health care industry plays a crucial role in the economic development and sustainability of our state and all of Hawaii's businesses. Also, Hawaii's healthcare system provides quality care for our families and serves to attract and retain a professional workforce, new companies, and even tourists to our state.

The Chamber supports prescriptions that will improve the quality of our health care system. We believe that requiring licensed nurses to complete 15 hours of continuing education will ensure that the quality of care and acumen are maintained.

In light of the above, The Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii supports SB 2272. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

TO:

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Senator David Y. Ige, Chair
Senator Josh Green, M.D., Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010

TIME: 3:00 pm

PLACE: Conference Room 016
State Capitol

FROM: Dr. Linda Beechinor,
Registered Nurse (RN)
Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP),
Advanced Practice Registered Nurse with Prescriptive Authority
(APRN-Rx),
Faculty, Graduate Nursing Programs, several U.S. Universities,
Primary Care Provider (PCP) at a community health center - Oahu

Re: SB 2272 Relating to Continuing Education for Nurses

Thank you for the opportunity to speak in opposition to this bill.

This bill is based on a number of assumptions that need to be examined prior to the enactment of requirements for continuing education for nurses in Hawaii. Among those assumptions are that

- competency and continuing education are linked;
- continuing education and consumer safety are linked;
- monitoring of continuing education requirements is cost-neutral; and,
- similar requirements in other states are effective in protecting consumers.

The usefulness of this legislation based on these assumptions needs to be explored by experts in our community. A much better-informed bill could be introduced if these assumptions are found to be correct.

Please call on me for further information at anytime.

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THE SENATE HEALTH COMMITTEE
Wednesday, February 3, 2010
Senate conference room 16
3:00 PM

In OPPOSITION to SENATE BILL NO. 2272
RELATING TO CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR NURSES

TO: THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
THE HONORABLE JOSH GREEN, M.D., VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

My name is Amy Stone Murai and I testify in opposition to SB 2272. I have been a registered nurse for 35 years, an advanced practice registered nurse (APRN) for 33 years, and have been licensed in the State of Hawaii since 1989. I am a member of the Board of Nursing (Board), but provide this testimony as an individual.

The stated purpose of this bill is to ensure “the highest level of competency of nurses practicing in the state” by including a continuing education component to nurse licensure requirements. The bill refers to other licensed professionals having similar requirements, but neglects to recognize that the relationship of continuing education as currently presented and its contribution to competence is a topic of much discussion by a variety of medical and nursing professional societies, including the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) and national nursing specialty certifying agencies. I am concerned that the use of the broad term “continuing education” lacks specificity and proven effectiveness, and would give the public a false assurance of competency. It would also place an additional burden on already short-staffed sections of DCCA to monitor the biennial renewal of thousands of nursing licenses.

The citizens of Hawaii should receive care from competent nurses, but I don't feel that the requirements proposed in this bill will ensure the desired outcome and ask the committee not to support its passing. I do support further examination of the issue and suggest that the Hawaii State Center for Nursing would be the appropriate body to undertake such a study.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to SB 2272, relating to the continuing education for nurses. I thank the committee for their consideration and regret that I am not able to be there in person to respond to any questions.

Amy Stone Murai, RN, MS, APRN, WHNP-BC

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:03 PM
To: HTHTestimony
Cc: matt.bishop5@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2272 on 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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Testimony for HTH 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2272

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: oppose
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: MATTHEW BISHOP
Organization: Individual
Address: 94-418 Kapuahi St. #17 Mililani, HI
Phone: 808-625-9698
E-mail: matt.bishop5@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/2/2010

Comments:

I am writing to oppose SB2272. although I am a proponent of continuing education I am against the measure as outlined in this bill. We need further evidence and clarity on the types and authorizing bodies providing the continuing education. Nursing is too broad to just allow any type of continuing education. Lets put forth a good bill and not just a patch work job.